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## *Wind, water to light homes, benefit environment*

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### **Bonneville Power Administration**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, FEBRUARY 10, 1999**

PR 07 99

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### **Environmentally preferred power sale will keep homes bright, pay for fish and wildlife restoration and renewable resource development**

EVERETT, Wash. – When Snohomish Public Utility District No. 1 customers flick their light switches this fall, they'll do more than light their homes – they'll also support additional fish and wildlife restoration and new non-hydro renewable resource development across the Northwest.

The Bonneville Power Administration and Snohomish PUD today signed a two-year power sale agreement for 10-megawatts of certified environmentally preferred power. The Washington utility is the first in the state to sign such an agreement.

"This purchase demonstrates Snohomish's commitment to protecting the Pacific Northwest's environment even at a time when the utility is trying to tighten its belt," said BPA Administrator Judi Johansen.

The power will come from three wind-powered turbines in Wyoming and an existing small hydroelectric power plant in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Snohomish will begin receiving the power on Sept. 1, 1999 at a price reflecting the higher cost of renewable resources.

The environmentally preferred certification comes from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, an independent, nonprofit organization created in June 1998 to support renewable energy and watershed health in the Northwest. Last year, BPA agreed to market power certified by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to utilities willing to pay an environmental premium. A portion of the premium helps support the foundation. The Snohomish power sale will provide the foundation about \$1.2 million.

The Bonneville Power Administration, a federal agency under the Department of Energy, sells electricity at wholesale to more than 130 utilities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. The agency also sells power directly to some Pacific Northwest aluminum and chemical producers.

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